Registered No. M—1175.

322

1645

The Mysore Gazette.

Vol. 52.] PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY. [No. 7

BANGALORE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1917.

PART VI.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Weights and Measures in use in the State.

No. 5082-131—A. & I. 215-14, DATED 5TH JANUARY 1917.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. 2193, dated the 15th March 1916, from the Secretary, Industries and Commerce Committee, forwarding a printed report containing the Committee's recommendations in regard to the weights and measures in use in the State and an extract from the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on the 26th February 1916.

2. Letter No. 5431-41—A. & I. 215-14-10, dated the 29th March 1916, from the Secretary to Government, Departments of Education and Agriculture, requesting the Deputy Commissioners of Districts and District Magistrates, the Inspector-General of Prisons, the Chief Engineer and the Revenue Commissioner, to furnish their opinions on the subject.

3. Replies received from the abovementioned officers in response to the above.

Order No. 5082-131—A. & I. 215-14, dated 5th January 1917.

The Industries and Commerce Committee point out that, although a uniform system of weights and measures fixed by law has been in force in the State for

nearly three years, very little progress has been made in the adoption of the standard system. The number of measures and weights tested and issued from the Central Jail till the end of 1915-16 is 1,46,305 and 40,000 respectively, representing a ratio of less than one-half in proportion to the population of the State as compared with that introduced in the Madras Presidency. The Committee attribute the present unsatisfactory results mainly to the absence of a definite agency to see that the use of the recognised measures is encouraged by the provision of adequate facilities to obtain them and that of false measures discouraged by frequent inspections and tests.

2. To improve the existing state of things the following recommendations are made by the Committee:—

(i) that a stamping party consisting of a clerk or tester and a gollar or artizan be entertained in each district at a cost of Rs. 22 per mensem and two additional parties at a cost of Rs. 35 per mensem each in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore to work under the Deputy Commissioners or the Presidents of the Municipal Councils concerned, as the case may be,

(ii) that the establishment should not only test and stamp measures and weights already in use but also sell approved weights and measures to all who require them,

(iii) that a fee of half an anna be charged for testing and stamping each measure or weight and the cost of the stamping party be recovered, as far as possible, from the fees so levied and the party enlarged as the demand for their services increases,

(iv) that each party be provided with a sufficient number of weights and measures for sale to the public and the price be fixed at a rate equivalent to the cost of production *plus* half an anna for each measure or weight to meet the establishment charges,

(v) that arrangements be made to obtain the weights and measures required from private manufacturers according to approved samples and the idea of erecting a plant in the Central Jail for manufacturing the same be abandoned,

(vi) that the duty of getting approved patterns of weights and measures for distribution to the Deputy Commissioners and the Presidents of Municipalities, Bangalore and Mysore, be entrusted to the Director of Industries and Commerce and a sum of Rs. 500 placed at the disposal of the Department by the Industries and Commerce Committee for the manufacture of samples of weights and measures,

(vii) that a sum of Rs. 16,000 be allotted for the purchase of 8,000 weights and an equivalent number of measures,

(viii) that multiples and sub-multiples of the seer by measure and weight should be easily available and should be so designed as to be distinctive in appearance and the price should not be much in excess of the metal in them,

(ix) that the use of bamboo measures permitted in the rules be prohibited in future, and

(x) that the diameter of the measuring seer should be definitely fixed as equivalent to that of the standard seer and not be allowed to vary from two-fifths to three-fifths of the length of the cylinder.

3. The Heads of Departments and the Deputy Commissioners who were consulted are generally in favour of the Committee's proposals. The Revenue Commissioner is, however, of opinion that facilities for stamping measures may be provided for the present at all taluk and sub-taluk headquarters and the establishment proposed be attached to the taluks and sub-taluks, itinerant parties being introduced later on. He also suggests that as the Revenue Commissioner's Office is not qualified to supervise the working of machinery and appliances, they may continue to be supplied by the Central Jail, a sufficient stock being maintained in each Taluk Cutcherry, and that it is not desirable to penalise unstamped weights and measures, irrespective of their being false or true.

4. Government are of opinion that the Revenue Department should be primarily responsible for the enforcement of the rules, and the control over the working of the whole system of the introduction of uniform weights and measures should therefore vest in the Revenue Commissioner. He will be requested to arrange for the supply of weights and measures for all centres. He should also arrange immediately for the preparation, in consultation with the Director of Industries and Commerce, of a complete set of samples of weights and measures including all the multiples and submultiples recognised in the rules. The Comptroller is requested to place a sum Rs. 500 at the disposal of the Revenue Commissioner for the purpose. Standards of authorised weights and measures in general use should be supplied to all Revenue Officers in Districts, all Police Stations and Chavadis of important villages, especially those in which weekly *santes* are held. A set of bronze weights and brass measures should be kept in every District Treasury for purposes of comparison with the working standards in the hands of the stamping parties. The sum of Rs. 16,000, proposed by the Industries and Commerce Committee for stocking a sufficient supply of weights and measures is also sanctioned.

5. Government are also pleased to approve of the recommendations of the Committee in other respects with the following modifications:—

(*a*) The supply of weights and measures in the 1st year should be obtained by inviting tenders in the *Mysore Gazette*. It is essential that standards of measures should in the first instance be fully up to specification both in material used and in quality. Suitable arrangements will be made from year to year by the Revenue Commissioner to ensure a permanent and continuous supply in future.

(*b*) No fees will be charged for testing and stamping weights and measures for a period of six months from the date of the promulgation of the Government Order, with a view to popularize and induce the people to use only approved weights and measures.

(*c*) The establishment proposed by the Industries and Commerce Committee for stamping weights and measures will be located at the headquarters of each district, the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore having a separate establishment each, which will work under the Presidents of the respective Municipal Councils. The District establishment will be under the supervision of the Treasury Assistant Commissioner subject to the general control of the Deputy Commissioner. It will remain at headquarters but may, at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner, be sent to any taluk headquarters or other important places in the district where a large number of weights and measures have to be stamped. A quarterly statement of weights and measures tested and issued and the number sold to the public arranged by districts should be compiled and published by the Revenue Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioners will also be responsible for a sufficient stock of weights and measures being kept at each taluk headquarter and to make suitable arrangements for their being supplied to the public. The cost of the establishment will be met from the lump sum of Rs. 16,000 referred to in paragraph 3 above and adjusted as indicated in paragraph 7 below.

(*d*) The Amildars and Deputy Amildars should visit a few important *santes* occasionally to test the weights and measures in use there. Similarly, bazaars, toddy shops, etc., should be occasionally visited for the same purpose. The assistance of Honorary Magistrates, the Members of the District and Taluk Boards and Progress Committees and Union Panchayets may be also enlisted, for inspecting weights and measures. Police Officers and Shekdars should be instructed to inspect weights and measures in the course of their itineration and induce the people to get them tested and stamped and use only authorised ones.

(*e*) Government are not prepared at present to treat the mere possession of unstamped weights and measures and their use, irrespective of their being true or false, as penal; but the question of declaring the use of unauthorized weights and measures illegal and recognising only authorized ones in drawing up documents and making their use compulsory in markets under the control of Government or local bodies may be kept in view for suitable action after the system has become familiar to the people.

6. The Inspector-General of Prisons will be relieved of the duty of supplying weights and measures from the 1st March 1917. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to send proposals separately in consultation with the Inspector-General of Prisons regarding the establishment, machinery and appliances maintained in the Central Jail for the manufacture and stamping of weights and measures, and the manner in which it can be used in future.

7. As regards the funds required for giving effect to the scheme, the Revenue Commissioner will be authorised to open an advance account with the Comptroller for drawing funds as may be found necessary, the net profit or loss being adjusted at the end of each year.

8. The date on which the scheme is actually put in working order and arrangements made for satisfactorily working out the details should be reported to Government.

9. Action will be taken in the Legislative Department for introducing the necessary changes in the rules framed under the Weights and Measures Regulation.

10. A notification may be issued by the Revenue Commissioner, giving in the Gazette a clear table of the authorised standards of weights and measures, their multiples and sub-multiples, and copies thereof obtained from the Government Press and widely circulated.

11. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit a report quarterly on the working of the scheme so as to reach the Secretary to Government, Departments of Education and Agriculture, on the 20th of the month following the quarter.

P. G. D'SOUZA,
Secy. to Govt., Depts. of Edn. & Agri.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Comptroller, Mysore Government, through Branch II.
The Director of Industries and Commerce in Mysore.
The Inspector-General of Police in Mysore.
The Inspector-General of Prisons in Mysore.
The Inspector-General of Education in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
The Secretary, Industries and Commerce Committee.
The Secretaries to Government.
The Heads of other Departments.
PRESS TABLE.